

Message Text

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ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EUR-12 ISO-00 AF-08 EA-09 NEA-10

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /119 W

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R 102336Z MAY 76

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7439

INFO AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LONDON

UNCLAS USUN 2041

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR UN UK AR FA

SUBJECT: FALKLAND ISLANDS

REF: USUN 934

UN SECRETARIAT HAS CIRCULATED AS COMMITTEE OF 24 DOCUMENT
A/AC.109/520 LETTER DATED 7 MAY 1976 FROM ARGENTINA PERMREP
TO COMMITTEE OF 24 CHAIRMAN IN RESPONSE TO UK LETTER OF 3 MARCH
1976 (REFTEL) OUTLINING ARGENTINE CLAIMS TO FALKLAND ISLANDS.
LETTER GIVES HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE
AND REFERS TO UN ACTION AND RESOLUTIONS CONCERNING
NEED FOR NEGOTIATED SOLUTION.

EXCERPTS FROM THE LETTER BEARING ON CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS
ARE TRANSMITTED BELOW. COPIES OF THE LETTER ARE BEING POUCHED
TO EMBASSY BUENOS AIRES, EMBASSY LONDON, IO/UNP (TEFFT)
AND ARA-LA/APU (BARTCH).

QUOTE 3. FIRST OF ALL, WE STRONGLY REAFFIRM THE LEGITIMATE
SOVEREIGN RIGHTS OF THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC OVER THE MALVINAS.
THE EXISTENCE OF A DISPUTE WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT
CONCERNING SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE ISLANDS WAS RECOGNIZED
BY THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, BY THE UNITED
UNCLASSIFIED

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NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN ITS RESOLUTIONS 2065 (XX) OF
16 DECEMBER 1965 AND 3160 (XXVIII) OF 14 DECEMBER 1973,
IN WHICH THE PARTIES ARE INVITED AND URGED TO PROCEED WITH
BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH A VIEW TO FINDING A PEACEFUL

SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM, BEARING IN MIND THE PROVISIONS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE CHARTER OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND OF RESOLUTION 1514 (XV) OF 14 DECEMBER 1960 AND THE INTERESTS OF THE POPULATION OF THE ISLANDS. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTED BOTH RESOLUTIONS BY VERY LARGE MAJORITIES: THE FIRST BY 94 VOTES TO NONE, WITH 14 ABSTENTIONS, AND THE SECOND BY 116 VOTES TO NONE, WITH 14 ABSTENTIONS.

4. BOTH THE PURPOSE AND THE SPIRIT OF THESE RESOLUTIONS AND OF THE REPEATED CONSENSUSES ADOPTED ALONG THE SAME LINES WERE DISREGARDED BY THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT, WHICH REPEATEDLY REFUSED TO PROCEED WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS, AS MY GOVERNMENT POINTED OUT IN THE PLENARY GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON 8 DECEMBER 1975. FURTHERMORE, AS THIS COMMITTEE IS ALSO AWARE, THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT TOOK A UNILATERAL INITIATIVE IN THE MALVINAS QUESTION BY DISPATCHING A MISSION, HEADED BY LORD SHACKLETON, TO CARRY OUT AN "ECONOMIC AND FISCAL EVALUATION" OF THE ARCHIPELAGO AND SURROUNDING AREAS IN ORDER TO ASSESS THE POSSIBILITY OF ECONOMIC EXPLOITATION OF ITS NATURAL RESOURCES. THE MISSION WAS CARRIED OUT IN SPITE OF THE EXPRESS OPPOSITION OF MY GOVERNMENT, WHICH STATED PUBLICLY THAT IT WOULD NOT BE WELCOME.

5. THIS UNFRIENDLY ACT ON THE PART OF THE UNITED KINGDOM WAS THE SUBJECT OF A STATEMENT IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS ON 14 JANUARY 1976 BY JAMES CALLAGHAN, THEN FOREIGN SECRETARY OF THE UNITED KINGDOM AND TODAY PRIME MINISTER. REPLYING TO A QUESTION OF JOHN GILMOUR, A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, AS TO WHAT SAFEGUARDS WERE BEING PROVIDED FOR THE SHACKLETON MISSION, MR. CALLAGHAN NOTED THAT THE HMS ENDURANCE OF THE ROYAL NAVY WAS IN THE VICINITY OF THE ARCHIPELAGO AND THAT TWO OTHER VESSELS WERE READY TO PROCEED THERE, THUS MAKING IT QUITE CLEAR THAT THE VESSELS IN QUESTION WERE ON AN OPERATIONAL MISSION.

6. THIS IS REFERRED TO BY THE INTER-AMERICAN JURIDICAL COMMITTEE WHEN IT STATES THAT "PRESENCE OF FOREIGN WARSHIPS IN WATERS ADJACENT TO THE AMERICAN STATES AND THE INTIMIDATING ANNOUNCEMENT UNCLASSIFIED

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BY THE BRITISH AUTHORITIES OF THE SENDING OF OTHER SHIPS CONSTITUTE THREATS TO THE PEACE AND SECURITY OF THE CONTINENT AND FLAGRANT VIOLATIONS OF THE INTERNATIONAL RULES OF NON-INTERVENTION".

7. WE MUST ALSO CHARACTERIZE AS HOSTILE A COURSE OF CONDUCT WHICH HAS CONSISTED NOT ONLY IN PERSISTENT REFUSAL TO PROCEED WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS REPEATEDLY RECOMMENDED BY THE UNITED NATIONS - DISREGARDING THE MANDATE OF THE ORGANIZATION INSTEAD OF PURSUING THE PATH OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT OF DISPUTES - BUT ALSO IN THE CREATION OF DANGEROUS SITUATIONS THROUGH UNILATERAL ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN DISREGARD OF REPEATED STATEMENTS BY THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT.

17. THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT ALSO REGRETS THAT THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM GOVERNMENT IN REFUSING TO RENEW THE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH IT HAS DESCRIBED AS "STERILE", AND THE SENDING OF THE SHACKELTON MISSION, WHICH CONSTITUTED A UNILATERAL INITIATIVE IN THE MATTER, HAVE COMPELLED THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT TO KEEP ITS AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED KINGDOM AWAY FROM HIS POST AND TO CALL UPON THE GOVERNMENT OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY TO TAKE SIMILAR ACTION WITH REGARD TO ITS AMBASSADOR IN ARGENTINA.

18. WITH REGARD TO THIS PROBLEM, MY GOVERNMENT IS FULLY PREPARED TO SEEK AREAS OF AGREEMENT WHICH WILL MAKE NORMALIZATION POSSIBLE IN THIS ASPECT OF ARGENTINE-UNITED KINGDOM RELATIONS, BEARING IN MIND THE MANDATE CONTAINED IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY RESOLUTIONS 2065 (XX) AND 3160 (XXVIII) TO ARRIVE, THROUGH BILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS, AT A PEACEFUL AND DEFINITIVE SOLUTION OF THE DISPUTE CONCERNING SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE MALVINAS.

19. I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD HAVE THIS LETTER CIRCULATED AS AN OFFICIAL DOCUMENT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE.
UNQUOTE
BENNETT

UNCLASSIFIED

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 30 AUG 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976USUNN02041
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t197605106/baaabavn.tel
Line Count: 134
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: schwenja
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2004 by wolfsd>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by schwenja>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: n/a
TAGS: PFOR UN UK AR FA
To: STATE INFO BUENOS AIRES
LONDON
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006